

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for April 23, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



E-mail address change for editor



The address to send input to the editor of the *APG News* has changed to editor-apg@conus.army.mil. An alternate address is debi.horne@us.army.mil.

Any e-mail that was sent to the editor March 24 through April 4 was not received and should be resent.

For more information, call Debi Horne, editor, 410-278-1150.

No walk-in service at Client Services Division April 24

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, will not see walk-in clients for attorney consultation on April 24.

For more information, call 410-278-1583, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MOAA to hold career fair for military members, spouses today

The Military Officers Association of America will host a career fair for active duty and retired military members and their spouses 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 17, at the Washington, D.C., Convention Center.

The career fair is open to all officers and enlisted personnel and their spouses, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired. In addition to finding a new job, learn new techniques for working a career fair, how to write a powerful résumé, receive on-site résumé critiques, discover new negotiating techniques, and more.

Participating employers will receive a CD containing a copy of all résumés submitted by job seekers.

For more information, visit www.moaa.org/career-fair or call 800-234-6622, extension 547.

APG Arbor, Earth Day Celebration April 29

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, *See SHORTS, page 11*

Issue Highlights

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Page 16... 'Harriet Tubman' visits Youth Center

PA educators observe training at OC&S



Photo by ROGERTEEL, USAOC&S
Vicky Puskarich, a guidance counselor from Brooke High School in Wellsburg, West Va., fires the .50 caliber machine gun at the EST 2000 during a visit April 8 with the 61st Ordnance Brigade, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, to see first hand how today's Soldiers are being trained. (See story and more photos on page 2.)

New physical training routes result in new traffic patterns

APG Public Affairs Office

Ongoing road and infrastructure construction is causing some changes in early morning traffic patterns, and Installation Safety Director Overton R. Johnson is reminding motorists to be aware of the new routes.

"We are particularly concerned about troop formations—especially early in

the morning," Johnson said. "Safety needs to be a primary objective in everything we do, and the new physical training running routes may mean some readjustments and advanced planning for drivers."

According to Johnson, the physical training takes place between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m.

In the Aberdeen Area, roads

closed during that period include Susquehanna Avenue, and portions of Bel Air and Raritan avenues, and Springfield, Erie, Frankford, Bel Air, and Havre de Grace streets as well as Ordnance Circle.

In the Edgewood Area, roads closed will include portions of Wise, Beal and Otto roads. In addition, major portions of Sib-

ert Road will either be closed or have access restricted between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.

"We are absolutely committed to the safety of our troops," Johnson said. "That means everyone has a role to play. Motorists must obey all traffic rules, pay attention to posted speed limits and be very careful and observant—especially

in areas where units and individuals run, jog or walk.

"The people on foot also need to be doing the right thing," he added. "Unit formations are not allowed on Aberdeen, Harford and Maryland boulevards or Hoadley Road; and units who cannot use the designated routes need

See TRAFFIC, page 4

Major traffic changes starting soon on APG

Story by **JERRY NORRIS**
DIO

Maryland Boulevard

In the coming weeks, there will be several changes that will affect traffic on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Drivers should be especially cautious and aware of changing traffic conditions. Patience and understanding is requested.

The flashing signal at the intersection on Maryland Boulevard, Bush River Road/Deer Creek Loop and at Boothby Hill Avenue will become a red-yellow-green light.

There also will be lane closures on Maryland Boulevard. The closures will be necessary for the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to relocate a portion of the gas line that provides service to a majority of the post.

The left lanes in both the

inbound and outbound direction will be closed from just inside the present gate to the Bush River/Deer Creek Loop intersection.

All traffic in each direction will be transitioned into single lanes of traffic using the right lanes. It is anticipated that the traffic sign outside the gate will carry warning messages as the traffic changes occur.

Additional warning signs will also be used on all approaches to the intersections and work areas to warn of the changes.

C4ISR construction

The design build contractor has already begun to mobilize equipment and personnel on the C4ISR site adjacent to Boothby Hill Avenue. Contractors will use Maryland Boulevard and Boothby Hill Avenue to bring in heavy equipment and work personnel. Significant changes in both the volume and type of

traffic are expected.

Aberdeen Boulevard at Colleran Road

Aberdeen Boulevard at Colleran Road will be impacted early next month as the contractor installs new electrical lines to complete the Phase II renovation of building 120. This will involve a brief total lane closure as the conductors are initially pulled into place.

There will be single lane, flagman controlled traffic prior to and after the closure as well. Provisions will be made for emergency access.

Additional announcements will be made prior to any actual changes.

During the next few months and even into the coming year there will be delays and inconveniences because of the amount of construction that will be taking place in such a short time.

VISION: Begin with the end in mind

Story by **CRYSTAL MAYNARD**
ATC

Leaders from three Army organizations gathered at the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Test Center April 4 to take part in a transition ceremony of a key system in the Army test and evaluation community.

The transition ceremony of the Versatile Information System-Integrated ON-Line, or VISION, was hosted by ATC's commander Col. John P. Rooney to bring together the Project Manager Instrumentation Targets and Threat Simulators, which is part of Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation and the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command leadership.

Gary Hettchen, an ATC Test Technology Directorate engineer, explained VISION as

a "testing and data management architecture framework that was developed to support the full lifecycle testing of hardware and software components and systems of systems platforms."

The ceremony was attended by key leadership from PM ITTS, ATC, ATEC and DTC. Certificates of appreciation were given to Jim Fasig, the former technical director of ATC; Dr. Sam Harley, a former ATC senior scientist; and Bob Arora of PM ITTS for their key roles in the creation of the VISION system. At the end of the ceremony, the transition memorandum was signed by Rooney, Jerry Sirmans of PM ITTS and Don Timian of ATEC to complete the transition of the system to ATEC.

VISION allows all of the test commands under ATEC to view almost real-time data as

See VISION, page 16

Top Army spouse discusses Families

Story by **JEFF CRAWLEY**
Army News Service

The Chief of Staff of the Army and his wife visited Fort Leavenworth March 27 to address students in the Pre-Command Course, along with their spouses, and the Army's senior spouse took the opportunity to talk about the state of Army Families.

Sheila Casey, wife of Gen. George W. Casey Jr., has been a military spouse for more than 35 years. Their assignments have taken them to Europe, Egypt and throughout the United States.

Mrs. Casey works as the chief operating officer of *The Hill*, a newspaper that reports on Congress. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Families Association, a nonprofit organization that is the voice for military Families.

Fort Leavenworth Lamp: How important is the role of the military spouse?

Mrs. Casey: It is huge. I say that because we have a saying, "You recruit the Soldier, but you retain the Family." I don't think that it's

See SPOUSE, page 7

ACS accepting nominations for APG Volunteers of Year

MWR

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Volunteer of the Year Program recognizes exemplary achievement for volunteer service in support of the APG community.

Nominations and proposed citations are being accepted at Army Community Service, building 2754, room 203; faxed to 410-278-9685, or e-mailed to marilyn.e.howard@us.army.mil through April 22.

Each organization/unit may submit two nominations in each category: Military (active duty, Reserve, and National Guard), Family Member (19 years of age or older), Retiree (military or civilian), Civilian Employee, and Youth (18 years of age or younger).

Service must have been performed on APG from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007.

Typed nominations should include:

- Unit/organization submitting nomination
- Name of nominee
- Full address (include city, state and zip code)
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Category (choose one from Military, Family Member, Retiree, Civilian or Youth)

See VOLUNTEER, page 16

Soldier Show April 27



Photo courtesy of FMWR COMMAND
Cpl. Amber Jones, a parachute rigger from Clifton Park, N.Y., who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., brings ballet to rehearsals for the 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show. The U.S. Army Soldier Show returns to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater with a performance 7 p.m., April 27. The show is free and open to the public. The April 26 show is for active duty military only.



Taking aim, four Israeli soldiers fire simulated American weapons at the EST 2000 training facility at Forward Operating Base Wolverine. From left, Brig. Gen. Eyal Eluk, Israeli army chief of Ordnance; Lt. Col. Hezi Oushia, Israeli attaché in Washington; Col. Haim Mor-Haim, head of Israeli maintenance depots; and Col. Tzvi Gefen, maintenance commander.

USAOC&S hosts Israeli ordnance delegation

Story and photos by
ROGER TEEL
USAOC&S

Four Israeli army ordnance officers, including their chief of ordnance, toured U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools training facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground April 7.

“This was another superb opportunity to forge our partnership, share training concepts and enjoy some professional dialogue regarding maintenance -- one of our three core competencies in the Ordnance Corps,” said Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, the Army chief of Ordnance, and delegation’s host. “It was also a reciprocal visit as the Israelis hosted us last October -- a wonderful experience for us in the Holy Land.”

The Israeli contingent included Brig. Gen. Eyal Eluk, the Israeli chief of Ordnance (Halstead’s counterpart), Col. Haim Mor-Haim, head of Israel’s maintenance depots, Col. Tzvi Gefen, maintenance commander, and Lt. Col. Hezi Oushia, assistant defense attaché from the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C.

The four discussed ordnance activities and capabilities with Halstead and other key leaders, and toured APG training facilities, led by Col. Bobby Towery, commander, 61st Ordnance Brigade.

The visitors asked many questions concerning maintenance training and equipment, especially recovery and battle damage assessment repair configurations used by the U.S. Army.

“We look forward to strengthening this relationship with subsequent visits,” Halstead added.



Lt. Col. Hezi Oushia, assistant defense attaché from the Israeli Embassy, reaches for a closer look at a hydraulic repair plug used in recovery operations as other members of the Israeli contingent look on. Demonstrating the equipment, left, is Staff Sgt. Dawin Vasquez. Behind them, from left, are Col. Tzvi Gefen, maintenance commander, Col. Haim Mor-Haim, head of Israel’s maintenance depots, and Brig. Gen. Eyal Eluk, the Israeli army’s chief of Ordnance.

Educators support military career for students

USAOC&S Soldiers demonstrate training to visiting educators



Dr. Joe Rainer, Ordnance Museum curator, displays one of the many small arms not normally open to viewing to the visiting teachers.

Story and photos by
ROGER TEEL
USAOC&S

Twenty-eight teachers, guidance counselors and career developers from across Pennsylvania visited 61st Ordnance Brigade training sites on Aberdeen Proving Ground April 8 to see firsthand how today’s Soldiers are being trained.

Motivation for the annual tour, according to Mark Mazarella, education services specialist with U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Harrisburg, Pa., is to give the educators a

hands-on experience so they can help high school students make informed decisions about joining the military.

“We had a great day today. Every bit of it was good,” Mazarella said. “Seeing the insurgent attack was the best because it drives home the reality of what the training is about.”

“It’s winning individual minds over, one person at a time,” said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Michael Matthews. “We’re reaching into high schools across the state of Pennsylvania and telling the Army story by exposing them to the great training

going on here at Aberdeen. They really have no appreciation for that until we bring them here and they can see it and touch it.”

Held over spring break, the teachers volunteered for the tour that also includes stops at Fort Meade, Md., Fort Myer, Va., and the Pentagon.

“The Army is a viable career option for many high school students,” said Thomas Myers, art and graphic design teacher at Dallastown Area High School in York, Pa., for the past 13 years and Soldier himself from 1986 to 1989.

“I was blown away by the virtual training Soldiers are getting today,” Myers said. “It has certainly changed a lot since I was in.”

The tour began at the Stryker lab in the Edgewood Area where the educators saw how vehicle maintenance incorporates both virtual and hands-on training. They next fired light and heavy weapons at the EST 2000 at Forward Operating Base Wolverine and witnessed a perimeter defense demonstration before lunch with Soldiers in a field environment.

They trained on the virtual welder and went on patrol in the Virtual Convoy Combat Trainer. Their day ended at the Ordnance Museum where curator Dr. Joe Rainer led them on an

informative tour, including a visit to the museum’s prized small arms room.

“Most kids are looking at tomorrow and not at the future,” Myers continued. “A lot of them are scared, and that’s their parents, mostly, telling them if they join the Army they’re going to Iraq. Most see [the military] as a lot of work, but I want to give them options. And if they choose the military, I support them one hundred percent.”

“Everything was great,” he concluded. “I was artillery when I was in and didn’t have the opportunity to do a lot of things I did [here] today. I really like the virtual training Soldiers are getting, and I think our kids would like it, too.”



Instructor Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Perkins, right, answers questions about the Army’s Stryker vehicle during the educators’ visit.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor-apg@conus.army.mil.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

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TRICARE is ‘hooking up’ beneficiaries, providers

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Service has taken more than 2,300 calls in the United States to help active duty service members and their Families find approved behavioral health providers in their area.

The service that began three months ago allows ADSMs and their Families to call their managed care support contractor if they are having a problem locating a network provider.

The provider locator and assistance staff has successfully assisted more than 1,500 beneficiaries that were eligible for the service by locating and making appointments, often engaging the beneficiary in a conference call with the provider to ensure scheduling is

satisfactory.

“I’m extremely proud of this service,” said Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. “TRICARE continues to recognize needs and to support military Families.”

Beneficiaries are reminded that the Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Service is not a help line for behavioral health treatment, counseling or advice.

For assistance making behavioral health appointments, the toll free numbers are: West Region, 866-651-4970; North Region, 877-747-9579; and South Region, 877-298-3514. Hours vary according to region.

All ADSMs must have a referral from their primary care

manager for behavioral health care before calling the MCSC appointment assistance line.

TRICARE Prime active duty Family members can receive the first eight outpatient behavioral health care visits per fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) without a referral, but they must receive the care from TRICARE network providers to avoid point-of-service cost sharing charges.

TRICARE Oversees Program beneficiaries can also use the appointment assistance line when traveling in the United States.

For more information about TRICARE and the behavioral health appointment assistance service, visit the mental health and behavior section at www.tricare.mil.

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Sabre Harper, 410-278-8963, or e-mail sabre.harper@apg.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Donald Adamson
Neoma Amberman
Karen Blades
William Bond
Debra Bonsall
(daughter has brain tumor)
Jeanie Bowman
Jane Calahan
Donna Cianelli
Joyce Clark
George Colletta
Barbara Crossley
John Daigle
Wayne Doyle

Lisa Foust
Betty Genuardi
Hester Hayes
Jerome Hesch
William Horn
Sinclair Joe
Beverly King (caring for husband)
Paul Kuwik
Glenn Kresge
Coby Lantry
Joyce Mauldin
Marie D. Nowak
Dorothy Nowak
Cindy Orwig

Adrienne Pearson
Michael Querns
Melvin Showell
Gloria Scott
Barbara Seker
Donna Sexton
Algie Shaw
Mark Shipman
Willie Stevenson
Angela A. Taylor
Carrie Theiss
Charles Young
Barbara Zenker

Wounded Soldiers are optimistic, thanks to the Military Health System’s attention to their needs

U.S. DoD Military Health System

Most severely wounded Soldiers polled by an independent organization after receiving health care from the Military Health System say it’s doing all it can do to aid their recovery.

Zogby International polled 435 Soldiers wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan who are members of Warrior Transition Units and receiving care in military treatment facilities or through TRICARE, the Uniformed Services’ health care program. In their responses, 77 percent said

they believe the MHS is doing all it can to meet their health care needs. Fifty-eight percent said that since they began receiving medical treatment their trust and confidence in the system has increased, and a majority of them said their expectations for recovery have increased since they returned from their deployment.

“We wanted to hear from these heroes because they are best qualified to judge our performance,” said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy direc-

tor, TRICARE Management Activity. “It is of the utmost importance that they have confidence in their medical care.”

Soldiers who had been home longer from their deployment were more likely to feel the MHS was doing all it should be doing to meet their needs. Among those who had been home between 19 and 24 months, 84 percent said they believed the system was doing all it could, and that number moved to 93 percent for those who had been home 25 to 36 months.

“What this tells us,” Granger said, “is that once care begins, trust and confidence in our health care grows. This is very gratifying news.”

WTUs were created for Soldiers who required at least six months of complex medical care. These units are just part of the Defense Department’s initiative to maximize care to Wounded Warriors.

Details of the survey are available at <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1463>.

In search of summer hire grass cutters

Story by
JEFF DEEL, DIO
AND
SUZANNE SCHULTZ, CPAC

What does the average homeowner with a small plot of land and the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison with 72,500 acres of land have in common? They both need to have their grounds maintained. And, although the Roads and Grounds Branch of the Directorate of Installations Operations does an outstanding job towards this end, they need help.

To accomplish the goal of keeping APG beautiful, the installation’s summer hiring program will be accepting applications through April 21 for 35 temporary positions for employment through sometime in November.

Qualified persons must be at least 16 years old and pass a physical. Those selected will earn between \$15.23 and \$17.77 an hour.

Duties include operating a small mower (zero turn, push), weed cutting, grass blowing and all other assigned requirements to maintain APG as a top installation. Workdays will be Monday through Friday and overtime may be available as needed.

Applicants may self-nom-

inate at <http://acpol.army.mil>. Click on the word “Employment.” Click the “Search for Jobs” button. In the Keyword section, type Laborer, WG-3502-02 or insert NEAG08699299D in the Search Announcement section at the bottom of the page. Applicants will also need to confirm their eligibility by indicating whether or not they are a current federal employee.

Applicants must have a current resume on file to apply for these jobs. To prepare a resume online, go to the above Web site, click on the word “Employment,” then click on “Build a Resume/View Status” button. To start the Resume process, select “New User” or “Registered User.” If applicant is a New User, the New User form must be complet-

ed, in particular those fields marked with a red asterisk (*) indicating it’s a required field. If applicant is a Registered User, view the form for changes/updates. Once completed, click “Register” or “Next” to continue the resume process.

Once applicant has successfully entered their resume into the Army’s Centralized Resumix System, use the “Self Nominate” feature within the Job Vacancy Announcement to apply for the position.

Scroll to the bottom of the job announcement, click on the words “Self Nominate” (highlighted in blue) in the statement, “If your resume is currently in our central database,” click to Self Nominate. On the Self Nominate Form, complete all the information to include Name, Telephone Numbers, e-mail Address, SSN and the

Lowest Acceptable Grade.

Read the Self Certification statement and select Yes, I Agree or No, I do not Agree and click the Submit button.

Applicants who are looking for a great job and are willing to work hard, should apply today.



Alcohol screenings detect problems, educate users

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program conducted alcohol screenings at three locations on APG on National Alcohol Screening Day, April 3. To recognize the serious problem of alcohol abuse, April is designated as “Alcohol Awareness Month.”

The APG ASAP sponsored the screenings at the Post Exchange, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic co-sponsored the screenings at the clinic in the Aberdeen Area, and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine co-sponsored screenings at the Shoppette in the Edgewood Area.

According to the NASD Web site, “National Alcohol

Screening Day is an annual awareness event that provides education about alcohol and health as well as free, anonymous screening for alcohol use problems. The program is designed to provide outreach, screening and education about alcohol’s effect on health for the general public.”

The screeners and co-sponsors handed out surveys about alcohol use to Soldiers, civilians, retirees and Family members.

“Based on each persons survey score, areas of concern were pointed out to each participant, and information and referral resources were provided,” said Cynthia Scott, the ASAP prevention coordinator for APG.

“I thought the questionnaire was helpful and straight forward,” said Staff Sgt. Amanda

Bernard, who works at the 9th Area Medical Laboratory.

Scott said that in addition to pointing out areas of concern to people taking the questionnaire, the screening also provides valuable information to ASAP. The questions are tallied in a national database that tracks patterns of alcohol use. ASAP uses this information to fit their program to the changing needs of the community.

Scott added that preventing alcoholism is especially important in military communities.

“The mission of ASAP is to assist in mission readiness. Addiction interferes with the individual’s ability to meet the mission,” she said. “The mission is impeded by substance abuse and misuse.”

Judith Smith, who is the ASAP installation biochemical test coordinator for all Department of Defense civilians and point of contact for military drug testing, said that alcohol screening is important because alcohol use affects everyone.

“Alcoholism affects the whole nation,” Smith said. “When you choose to drink, you need to know how much is too much. When you make the choice to drink, you need to know the affects of drinking. If you drive drunk, you could kill a whole Family.”

This year ASAP is especially focusing on the effects of mixing alcohol and medications.

“In the last few years the number of people taken to the emergency room because of an adverse reaction to alcohol and medications has gone through the roof,” Scott said.

The screening sites offered

pamphlets on drinking and medications.

Scott said that patients should disclose all medications, including prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, herbal supplements and vitamins to doctors and pharmacists at all visits.

To assist in this, forms were available for participants to fill out listing their current medications and dosage they could take with them when visiting a health care professional.

She also said that patients should ask about the reaction of medication with alcohol.

Additionally, ASAP is expanding substance abuse awareness throughout the community and is working with Harford Community College to offer a screening site at the college on the next Alcohol Screening Day.

“We are really excited about the possibility of offering screenings at Harford Community College. Everyone needs awareness,” Scott said. “When you make the choice to drink, you need to know the effects of drinking. We need to inform people and spread the word.”

She added that military personnel who need substance alcoholism counseling can receive it at KUSAHC. Family members, civilian employees and retirees will be referred to William Sanchious, 410-298-5319, the employee assistance program manager, who does assessment and referral services.

Scott thanked Joe O’Rourke, chief of Behavioral Health at KUSAHC and Col. Michael Custer, USA-CHPPM, for their support. Specialist Terri Shaw headed up the KUSAHC support team and BethAnn Cameron lead the USACHPPM group.

“Their support was instrumental to the success of Alcohol Screening Day,” Scott said. “This was truly a community event, and I am excited at the prospects for next year.”

Online alcohol screening available

Story by
KATHERINE CRUISE
U.S. DoD Military Health System

Celebrating an achievement, toasting a special occasion, relaxing after a bad day, bonding with friends, trying to escape reality... There are plenty of reasons why people drink.

For most adults, moderate alcohol use causes few, if any, problems. But for some, any alcohol use may lead to significant health problems or affect the ability to perform optimally at work. Trying to figure out if there is a problem isn’t easy, but a self-assessment is a good place to start.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and the Department of Defense is offering service members and their Families the opportunity to take an anonymous alcohol self-assessment online or by phone at <http://www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org> and 877-877-3647. The alcohol self-assessment is a brief series of questions that gauges an individual’s likelihood for an alcohol use disorder. The online and telephone program, which also includes self-assessments for post traumatic stress disorder, depression, generalized anxiety disorder and bipolar disorder – is available year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“The alcohol self-assessment is the same one used at the screenings held on April 3 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on National Alcohol Screening Day,” said Cindy Scott, APG ASAP prevention coordinator. “This is a wonderful alternative for those who were unable to participate in person at one of the three ASAP sponsored NASD screening sites that day. Access to this helpful tool increases the opportunity for early identification of substance abuse issues and awareness of available resources; it’s a win-win situation.”

The goal of the screening is to educate military personnel and their Families about the potential risks associated with drinking. Through education, awareness and understanding, individuals can make informed decisions about their drinking behaviors.

Alcohol screenings are a part of the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program, a voluntary, anonymous mental health and alcohol self-assessment and referral program offered to military Families and service members. This program is offered without charge through Force Health Protection and Readiness, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs.

Alcohol facts

Young men, aged 18 through 25, consistently have been found to have the highest prevalence of heavy alcohol use within the military.

The rate for heavy alcohol use among young military males is approximately twice the rate of their civilian counterparts.

Women overall drink less than men but are more likely to experience adverse consequences, including damage to the heart muscle, liver, and brain, trauma resulting from auto crashes, interpersonal violence and death.

Alcohol can damage a fetus at any stage of pregnancy. Damage can occur in the earliest weeks of pregnancy, even before a woman knows that she is pregnant. Therefore, no amount of alcohol consumption can be considered safe during pregnancy.

Moderate alcohol use is defined as up to two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women and older people. One drink equals one 12-ounce bottle of beer or wine cooler, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits.

Traffic

From front page

any alternate route to be coordinated and approved. Unit leadership has to make certain all troop formations are to the far right of the roadway and no more than three abreast. Road guards in front and rear are required to wear reflective vests at all times and use flashlights in addition to wearing the vest during times of reduced visibility. Tight discipline of all unit formations PT or otherwise, can reduce risk and help save Soldier’s lives.

“I can’t emphasize enough that all individuals must wear reflective belts while walking, jogging or running,” Johnson said. “Those belts must be worn over the right shoulder down under the left arm. When possible they should use sidewalks and if no sidewalk is available, they should move facing oncoming traffic.

Johnson also added that using headphones, earphones and cell phones while walking, jogging or running on post is strictly prohibited for all.

“Safety is a team effort,” he said. “If we all do our part we can save lives, protect health and well-being and make APG a better, safer place.

**Visit
APG News
online at**

**www.
apgnews.
apg.army.mil**

FORSCOM commander encourages taking initiative confidently

FORSCOM

Soldiers and civilians within the Army’s largest command can take the initiative, confident in the support of their leaders when all involved have a sense of direction from the top.

Gen. Charles C. Campbell, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, emphasized the importance of empowerment during his recent quarterly huddle with his headquarters team when he discussed FORSCOM’s mission and his vision.

As he told the staff, “You and the leaders of our corps, divisions and separate brigades need to have an understanding of my intent and vision to feel empowered to exercise initiative and exploit opportunities when they present themselves. Operating with that understanding, you can be confident

that you have the trust and confidence of your superiors.

“This organization must be self-synchronizing . . . within the vision, intent, focus areas and priorities. There is a very clear interdependency between my vision and intent and subordinate initiative,” Campbell said.

He referred everyone to the CAC-accessible folder on the FORSCOM Web site, **www.forscom.army.mil**, for more information on the Commander’s Vision, Priorities, Intent and detailed guidance for the focus areas that most closely apply to each individual’s job.

Campbell set forth his guidance 14 months earlier when he assumed command. However, he recently decided to refine that guidance in the face of the increasing complexity and magnitude of change within the Army today.

He pointed out that FORSCOM’s mission remains unchanged. It is to train, mobilize, deploy, sustain, transform and reconstitute conventional forces, providing relevant and ready land power to combatant commanders worldwide in defense of the nation, both at home and abroad.

His three enduring priorities remain: Train for the war fight, develop leaders and care for Soldiers and Families. He has added two more that are fundamental to the way FORSCOM conducts its business: Forge partnerships and preserve the all-volunteer force.

Everyone must invest time and energy, he stressed, in cultivating operative partnerships with Direct Reporting Units, Army Service Commands and other Army Commands, including the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, the

Army Reserve Command, the National Guard Bureau and the Army National Guard.

As for the second new enduring priority, he said that in spite of the stress the Army is experiencing, “We have to as a nation be able to prosecute . . . a protracted conflict while preserving the all volunteer force across all components – both the Active Component and the Citizen-Soldier formation that is community based in our Reserve and Guard.”

Campbell next spoke about his restructured Commander’s Intent, which includes:

- Achieving modularity to enable the expeditionary Army
- Implementing Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) as a process of systems to continuously synchronize resources to requirements
- Executing force integra-

tion actions to grow, organize and station the force

- Operationalizing the Reserve Component to achieve balanced contributions from all components

- Integrating select future force capabilities to enhance the warfighting capabilities of the current force

- Adapting command and control relationships

- Ensuring the well-being of Soldiers and their Families

Campbell further emphasized as part of his Commander’s Intent eight areas on which to focus leadership, resources and effort: Leadership, transformation, force protection, readiness, total force utilization, well-being, joint interdependence

and mobilization.

Mobilization is a new focus area because of the need to have a new Mission Essential Task List that reflects the reality of continuous mobilization.

The general then did a quick review of his priorities, all of which can be found on the FORSCOM homepage.

In concluding, Campbell thanked all the men and women throughout FORSCOM for doing purposeful work at a seminal point in the nation’s history.

“We are ultimately a team. We succeed as a team greater than the sum of our parts because we work interdependently with common purpose, understanding and values,” Campbell said.

Spouse

From front page

ever been truer than it is today. What we’ve realized is that the Family is a readiness issue. It is very important that as a Soldier, especially going off on a deployment, that his or her Family is being taken care of so that they can go off and do their job.

Lamp: What advice would you give to spouses who are new to the Army Family?

Mrs. Casey: I would tell them to get involved with their Family readiness groups. Sometimes it’s very hard to capture those [new] people - they may be living away from the post, you may not know that a Soldier is married. So I would say, “Come in, join these groups and learn what’s available.” Even with all these programs and everything that we have, our best resource is each other. We’ve been through this. I think that spouses really help other spouses, and we depend on each other to get through these times.

Lamp: You meet a lot of Army Families. What’s the morale of Families today?

Mrs. Casey: The morale is good. They are a very committed group of people. They are stressed and they are stretched. We have realized since we’ve traveled around that they really are the most brittle part of the force. But even through that, they are incredibly resilient. I have concerns about the continued deployments because I think that the compounding of the stress of a spouse coming and going is very difficult. Some are on deployment number four. All of those things add

up. One issue I’m particularly concerned about is our children because we do not know, yet, what the cumulative effects of these deployments are on our children. That is something that we have to watch very, very closely, and making sure that there is help and support for them as well.

Lamp: What are some of the immediate effects of the Army Family Covenant that you’ve seen since it was signed in October?

Mrs. Casey: What I’ve seen and what I’ve heard is that people have felt the immediate impact of the money coming down. This year, \$1.4 billion is going toward Family programs and next year, \$1.7 billion. The changes that people have seen are increases in child care centers, increases in respite hours for Exceptional Family Member Programs, increases in child care hours, they have done away with many registration fees not only for child care centers, but many youth programs as well.

Lamp: What do you see coming down the pike for Army Families from the covenant?

Mrs. Casey: We are putting Family readiness support assistants down through the brigade level. Those are paid positions to help with the Family readiness groups, which is very important. The Army

is trying to hire about 200 counselors to help with mental health, and that’s another big issue that’s very important to Families.

Lamp: What else needs to be done for Families?

Mrs. Casey: We have to improve on a lot of things. We need to work on educational issues for spouses and for Families. We need to continue to do work on spouse employment programs because you have some 60-odd percent of spouses [who] are in the workforce. As you move, it becomes very difficult to find jobs. We have to continue to help spouses find employment or to have careers that they can transfer from place to place. And, housing - that’s continuing to change and improve as well.

Lamp: You’ve been a military spouse for more than 35 years. What are some of the major improvements that you’ve seen in Army Family life?

Mrs. Casey: It’s so big when I think back. Let’s take Army Community Service. When George first went into the Army, ACS was a lending closet - you went there to get an ironing board. Everything was so limited. We didn’t have child care centers, we had nurseries where you could drop in and do a little hourly care. There was

no network to inform people what was going on at the unit or how things worked. There really weren’t many services, but again, we had each other.

Lamp: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Mrs. Casey: I would like to emphasize the continual need to think about these Families and what they are going through. It’s very important for the civilian community to get involved and to stay involved with people in the military, especially now because everybody doesn’t live on a post. And, you have the Reserve and National Guard, who are spread across the United States and are big parts of their communities. These are times when people need to put their arms around the military Families, which includes the single Soldiers, and contractors and the civilians who are working very hard to keep this machine moving and who are also deploying.

(Editor’s note: Jeff Crawley writes for the Fort Leavenworth Lamp.)



A RQ-7 Shadow 200 unmanned aerial vehicle prepares to take off for a night mission. 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry maintains 24-hour surveillance over the skies of Mosul.

UAS dudes are pretty fly

Story by
SPC MICHAEL HOWARD
CAB

It's hard to believe that such a small aircraft can make such a big difference in the future of Iraq. But despite their size, unmanned aerial vehicles are paying huge dividends in the battle against the insurgency and sectarian violence that has been plaguing Iraq.

The unmanned aerial vehicles of the Unmanned Ariel Systems Platoon, 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas, are continually flying over the skies of Northern Iraq – acting as the eyes of the 4-6 Cavalry Regiment.

They play an essential role in the sensor-to-shooter link, a revolutionary new battlefield concept that streamlines both target identification and the clearance to fire process.

Before the advent of UAS, getting positive identification and clearance to fire required helicopters to get close enough to insurgents to warn the insurgents of their presence.

Today, PID and clearance to fire can be obtained long before the insurgents have any inkling they are being watched. The clearance process can go two ways; sensor-to-shooter or shooter-to-sensor.

In the traditional sensor-to-shooter link, a UAS operator sees activity that seems suspicious. He gets in contact with the 4-6 CAV battle captain. The battle captain hands the footage off to an intelligence analyst, who gets positive identification and makes the determination of hostile intent. Once the determination is made, the analyst hands the feed back to the battle captain. The battle captain hands the feed back to the UAS Platoon. The UAV Platoon contacts Troop A, widely known as Thug Troop, a troop of Kiowa Warrior recon helicopters. The UAV Platoon walks 4-6's Thug in on the target, and then lasers the target.

"Our laser is like a spotlight coming out of the sky that points to the target, but the target can't see it," said Sgt. Marcus Centron, the UAS Platoon mission commander and unit trainer.

The Kiowa pilots see the laser pointing to the target, designate the target with their own laser designators and fire. The insurgents



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dean Lester recovers a 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry RQ-7 Shadow 200 UAV. The Army and Navy work closely together on UAV takeoffs and landings.



A RQ-7 Shadow 200 unmanned aerial vehicle takes off for a night mission.

never realize anything out of the ordinary was happening.

The shooter-to-sensor link works in a similar manner, only it begins with the Kiowa seeing something suspicious first, said Centron.

"Basically what happens is, thug will fly by, they'll see something that looks funny. They'll call up our element and say, 'UAS, we see something suspicious.' Then we take a look at it, get PID and get back to thug, 'Roger. You have clearance to fire,'" Centron said.

Today, UAS plays a central role in aviation operations. However, Centron said that the current role of UAS is only the beginning.

"Our role in the command post of the future is limitless. We have so many other aircraft coming out. Shadow right now is just the start. We've got Warrior coming out. Soon, we're not going to need Kiowas. We're not going to need anyone. When we get positive identification, we're going to fire on the target. Unmanned, I believe is the future," Centron said.

Being a field that takes such an active role in the future, however, does have its consequences in the here and now. Because the system is so new and constantly evolving, UAS Soldiers face a near-constant influx of new information.

"Our checklist changes about every four months," Centron said. "We've got a brand new checklist, a brand new way of doing things. Not only that, but we've got new equipment for our aircraft, and new equipment for our shelters. We've got a new [control] system, that will let us fly a Hunter or a Shadow.

"We face constant change. At all times we're learning and at all times we're studying. It's almost like we're always in AIT, in a sense," Centron said.

Despite constantly pushing the envelope in many of their aviation techniques, the UAV Platoon still uses the same tried and true method for running UAV missions that the Army has used since the mid-'90s.

There are two officers involved in each flight. There is the air vehicle operator, who flies the aircraft, and the payload operator, who controls the camera. The launch and recovery site is separate from the pilot site.

Forward sites at Marez and Tal Afar are capable of receiving the handoffs and completing missions in their areas of responsibility.

"As long as we have a line of sight, we can hand off the bird," said Cpl. Timothy T. Gaudet, the standardization operator for UAS platoon.

After a launched UAV reaches the proper altitude, the launch team hands the pilots the controls of the aircraft. The AVO's fly the mission and hand the bird back when the mission is complete. Then the crew chiefs take care of the landing. They do the recovery on a runway next to the launch site.

The UAS operators have many similarities with other pilots. They have crew rest cycles, do constant flight training to keep their skills sharp, and must progress from readiness level three to readiness level one before they can fly solo.

"If we're standing behind them, then we're considered the pilot in command, because we're the most knowledgeable pilot present. When they're readiness level one and we as instructors feel that they are confident and knowledgeable to fly the aircraft by themselves, then that's when they can fly alone," Gaudet said.

The operators have 90 days to progress through each level. It is possible to progress more quickly, but the time limit is 180 days. The standardization operator decides when operators are ready to progress.

In some ways learning to fly UAS can present some challenges that standard aviators don't face.

"I was signal before this," Gaudet said. "And when I reclassified to UAS, I realized that UAS incorporates a lot of signal into it. And you still have to be aware of all the signal elements. We've got so many antennas and cables;



Sgt. Marcus Centron, the Unmanned Ariel Systems Platoon, 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment mission commander and unit trainer, makes a final inspection of a Shadow UAS before its launch. "The engines are very complex. Luckily, we've got very, very skillful mechanics working on them," Centron said.

you basically have to be a signal officer to be part of this shop. Not only that, we're under the same requirements as all aviation pilots because we're going to be flying with them. We're brethren now."

"Not only that, but you have the aircraft," Centron said. "Our maintainers are excellent. We've got military intelligence. We've got generator mechanics. We've got engine mechanics. The engines are very complex. Luckily, we've got very, very skillful mechanics working on them. We've got to know the computers on the aircraft. We've got a lot of knowledge coming together, it's a combined effort. And the job itself? Very difficult. It takes a while to learn it. And it's a perishable skill. The moment you stop flying, you'll lose the skill."

Despite the difficulty inherent in their jobs, the UAV Platoon came together within their first weeks of deployment and excelled. Already they are outpacing their predecessors by a factor of four.

"The unit we replaced had thirty-six engagements in the year they were down here. Within two weeks of getting here, we took what the last unit taught us and perfected it. In the first two weeks that we've been here, we had six engagements. They had about three per month. We're already up to 16 confirmed kills in a month," Centron said.

Though the platoon is off to a substantial start, Centron, Gaudet, and the rest of the platoon know they must continue their pattern of excellence. They know lives are at stake.

"People might make fun of us, saying we're sitting in a shelter, looking at a digital screen, but it's not easy. You have to stay sharp, which is why we have crew rest. Our stakes are high. If we let an IED emplacer walk, he can go free to kill again. It's a serious business. But it's also a privilege. I get to save lives. I get to watch over my comrades. I get to watch over Soldiers from the skies," Centron said.



From left, Loren Jean, a Hunter maintenance crew chief with Northrop Grumman, Nick Nicholson, Mike Earkin, and Tom Olsen, all maintenance specialists with Northrop Grumman, walk a newly acquired Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle for its first flight.

They're not pretty, but they're plenty busy -- UAVs make a difference

Story by
SPC WILLIAM MICHAEL HOWARD
CAB

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's Unmanned Aerial Systems program is living (or perhaps robotic) proof that an idea doesn't have to be fancy, flashy, or even new to be a huge factor on the battlefield.

Though their program was canceled in 1996 after three years of development by a TRW/Israel Aircraft Industries team, the U.S. Army's MQ-5 Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle has never been busier.

CAB Soldiers are flying the vehicles around the clock through the skies of Iraq, providing military leadership with intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and even lethal strike capabilities – the only such capabilities in all of Iraq.

Even so, the primary offensive use of the vehicles is in a real-time melding of military intelligence and attack helicopters like the AH-64 Apache, said Maj. Tom Rude, the CAB, 1st Infantry Division executive officer.

"We have a radio on the Hunter, which allows our aircraft to talk directly with the Hunter operator," Rude said. "Then that Hunter relays back to the operator."

Passing the mission over to the helicopter is generally preferable to directly engaging insurgents with UAVs.

"Hunters can directly engage insurgents on the ground. We don't prefer this, as we would rather use UAVs to direct our [Apache] Longbows and have them engage the enemy. But if the weather is bad, or the Longbows are too far away, we can use Hunters to engage them directly," Rude said.

The CAB has the only three Hunter UAVs with a weapons platform in Iraq. On a mission-specific basis, the platform is armed with the GBU-44/B Viper Strike munition.

Viper Strike is a 44-pound, three foot long variant of Northrop Grumman's unpowered, laser-guided Brilliant Anti-Tank munition with a 2.3 pound high explosive warhead.

Rude says that such close coordination with manned, rotary wing strike assets today plays a major part in the CABs operational planning, especially counter-IED operations.

"UAVs are providing us with much more capability than we have had in the past. They dramatically increase our ability to observe the area of responsibility, and the more we are able to see, the better we are able to do our job. Unmanned systems, including Hunter, are tightening the kill chain," he said.

As for the Hunter's ability to strike its own targets, video from a Hunter UAV shows a successful Viper Strike attack on IED emplacers on Major Supply Route Tampa, on Sept. 17.

However, the strike is one of only two that have been carried out to date (the other on Sept. 1, 2007). Rude said the CAB, who has been in theater less than four months, is still working to refine the tactics, techniques and procedures necessary to perform unassisted strikes.

Along with perfecting TTPs, the CAB is working to train Army Soldiers to use Viper Strike. The

Geneva Convention prohibits the Northrop Grumman contractors who support UAV operations from actually deploying the munition, Rude said.

Interestingly enough, though the Hunter UAV program was killed for a perceived lack of reliability; commanders on the ground today cite the Hunter's reliability as one of the platform's major selling points.

"It's been very reliable for us," Rude said.

Capt. Jake Roper, the UAS commander, agreed, adding, "Getting parts for the system has not been a problem, and the vehicles aren't prone to trouble. I think the Hunter is definitely a reliable UAV. It's a lot more practical with the [operational tempo] that we're doing."

Much of the Hunter's newfound reliability is likely due to strict aviation standards in terms of maintenance and upkeep. This means a full system inspection every 75 hours of operation and an outright replacement of the UAV's dual 800cc Mercedes Benz engines every 300 hours.

"The constant watch over the aircraft engines means that the aircraft are available to constantly watch over the Iraqi people. The counter IED fight is still a major concern. UAS are playing a huge role in defeating IEDs, and effectively defeating IEDs allows us to provide security for the Iraqi people, and that's one of our top concerns for the future of Iraq. Also, by providing better security, we are able to better enhance governance here in country," Rude said.

The hunters also make it easier to maneuver for both U.S. forces and the Iraqi Army, police and people.

"If we can reduce the IED threat, the general level of everyone's well being improves drastically," Rude said.



Nicholson, checks the oil on one of the newly acquired Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle's dual 800cc Mercedes Benz engines. The maintainers provide a full system inspection every 75 hours of operation and an outright replacement of the engines every 300 hours.



Mike Earkin and Tom Olsen, both maintenance specialists with Northrop Grumman, adjust the Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle's transmission satellite to ensure a controlled landing.



Landing – Kimberly Wiggins, a Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle operator with Northrop Grumman, guides a Hunter UAV onto the runway at contingency operating base Speicher.

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: A look back at APG deer hunting season

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
APG Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement Division

A big round of applause is in order to all of the APG deer-shack volunteers for their dedication and valuable support this past year. Because of them APG was once again able to have a safe and successful hunting season.

In my opinion, I’m afraid that without their sacrifice and hard work, our recreational hunting program would have fallen flat on its face. As it was, things went very smoothly, and knock on wood; once again there were no calamities or serious incidents to mar the program.

A good word should also go to Mother Nature as well, for the very mild winter we experienced. From the looks of it, the critters all made it through in pretty good shape.

For awhile there, we were really concerned about the outbreak of EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease) we experienced last fall and the overall impact it had on the deer population. During one of my many conversations with

the U.S. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., regarding this dilemma, they indicated that the outbreak was one of the biggest they’d ever recorded in the eastern United States.

Our losses here at Aberdeen Proving Ground were significant. However, after closely monitoring the deer herd over the winter, it now looks as though the impact wasn’t as bad as we first imagined.

In fact, it may have been a blessing in disguise. In some areas of the installation, especially in those areas that are closed to hunting, the deer herd had been growing by leaps and bounds, eating itself out of house and home. We’re hopeful now, that with the reduced numbers, the remaining deer will have more food available to them this spring.

Insofar as the hunter success here at APG, the stats are pretty consistent with the harvest figures released by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for Harford and Baltimore counties.

Overall, the totals out in the counties were down somewhat; Harford County was down about 16 percent from last year and Bal-

timore County was down about 3 percent. We were down about 20 percent, and this was due largely to the EHD problem.

During the 2007 deer season, APG deer hunters harvested the following:

Archery	423
Muzzleloader	114

Shotgun.....	155
Total.....	692

All in all, it was a safe and successful hunting season, thanks primarily to the efforts of Tom Ward and the APG Bowmen staff, especially Lori Workman in the Edgewood Area, and Thomas Pau-

lachok, Ray Pridgeon, Bill Meyers and Tiphanie Dymond in the Aberdeen Area.

Kudos should also go the ATC Range Safety Office and Steve Benjamin for their “above and beyond” efforts to open down range areas for recreational hunting.

Commentary: Wounded Warriors coming to APG to hunt, volunteers needed

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
APG Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement Division

Hooah!!! Every now and then somebody comes up with a really wonderful idea, and this time it has found some fertile ground and hopefully taken root. It’s been labeled the “APG Wounded Warrior Hunting Program,” and it’s a terrific opportunity for those of you involved in the APG recreational hunting program to step up and lend a helping hand.

Preparations are now under way by the Garrison Conservation Committee, with the blessings of Col. Jeffrey Weissman and the Garrison command staff to put together a program to help get some of our gallant Soldiers out of the hospital for a while to spend

some quality time in the outdoors and enjoy those things we all take for granted.

Steve Wampler, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment Natural Resources Branch, has the lead on the project, and right now the committee is kicking around some ideas and tying up some of the loose ends (licensing, transportation, etc.). Hopefully we’ll have a plan put together in the next month or so.

I sort of went out on a limb at the last committee meeting and assured everyone that our volunteers would step up and make this program a success; so if any of you want to volunteer some of your free time, give me a yell and I’ll get you pointed in the right direction, 410 436-4357.



APG Forum

Commentary: New software makes photo corrections easier

By
RETIRED MAJ ERIC SCHULER, NJ ARNG
Special contributor

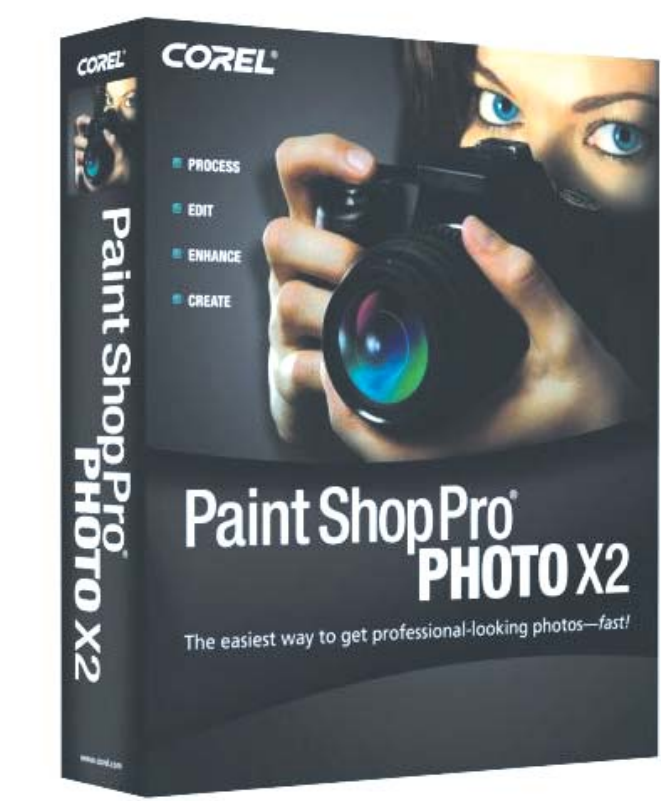
How many times have you thought you took the perfect picture only to discover that there were flaws in the photo?

I recently tried out Corel’s Paint Shop Pro X2 software. This software is economical to purchase and fairly easy to use. The learning curve is too not difficult to grasp. (One disclaimer, I have used the various earlier Paint Shop versions in the past.)

The included Photo X2 printed manual provided is complete, but has no illustrations.

Photo editing is very color intensive and in some ways your finished photo is artwork. Fortunately, I had assistance learning Paint Shop Pro X2. Two excellent books are Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 by Ken McMahon published by Focal Press and Picture Yourself Learning Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 by Diane Koers published by Cengage Learning.

McMahon’s book is very complete and a great tool for a beginner to intermediate photo edit. It contains numer-



ous graphics, is an easy read and lays out different options a photo editor can implement.

Diane Koers book’s is 392 pages and is written as a text book for a classroom. It is for more intensive learning and it comes with a sample CD.

Both books bring added information to the Pro X2 software and a different point of view on how to use it.

There are multiple things you can do to enhance your photo with Photo X2.

The number one reason is a one-step photo fixer which

is like taking your photo to a lab. I was somewhat skeptical of this until I used the photo fixer. I tried this option on a group photo, where the lighting was all wrong. There were dark areas and areas with too much ambient light. I clicked on one-step photo fixer and corrected the lighting of the photo and the result was spectacular. The other problem I had was with a photo of a group of people positioned in a semi-circle in the photo not in a straight line. I used a tool called a perspective tool and

adjusted the group to a straight line. I now had the perfect photo with a lot of help from Paint Shop Pro Photo X2.

The hardest concept to understand with Photo X2 photo software is the use of layers.

The first layer is the background and then additional layers are placed on top of the first. The photo editor has the option to change layers around and make them more transparent or opaque. A good visualization of this is a group of transparent plastic sheets with designs on them. The layers are all stacked on top of one another for a finished photo. A use of this is if you want to add text or another person to the photo or item. The photo editor will allow you to move the layers around much like shuffling a deck of cards.

For a Cub Scout function I needed to print out some special photos. I didn’t have a matt for the photos but X2 has a photo frame option which became my matt. The next step I used was adding the names of the Scouts in color. The finished photo was a big hit with the parents and the Scouts. Parents complimented me and asked me how I was able to make the photo.

My last project was one of field expediency. I needed wrapping paper for my wife’s Valentine Day gift. I opened X2 and selected a red background for the paper. I typed in Happy Valentines in different font sizes and type faces. I used the picture tube option for added effect. There are different designs of tubes. I used the flower tube and laid down different flowers on the paper and printed it out. By the way, my wife liked the paper and thought I bought it at the store.

There are more things that X2 can do like coloring black and white photos, removing red eye and scratches in photographs, 3D effects, and painting your own photograph than I have space to write about.

If you are in the market for fairly reasonable and easy to use photo software, Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 is well worth the investment.

To get the most out the software, I would recommend Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 by Ken McMahon and Picture Yourself Learning Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 by Diane Koers.

Community Notes

FRIDAY APRIL 18 LIVING WELL...TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH

The Harford County Department of Community Services’ Office on Aging will sponsor a workshop entitled, “Living Well...Take Charge of your Health,” 9:30 a.m. to noon, every Friday through May 30. The workshop will be held at the Havre de Grace Activity Center, located at 351 Lewis Lane. The cost of the workshop is \$5 and is geared toward people with chronic conditions and is modeled after the Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop from Stanford University. A caregiver of a person with a chronic condition is welcome to attend. The workshop will cover such topics as How to manage symptoms; How to communicate effectively with doctors; How to lessen your frustration; How to fight fatigue; How to make daily tasks easier and How to get more out of life. For more information, call Betty Karukas, the Harford County Office on Aging, 410-638-3025.

PRIZE BINGO AND DINNER

The Water Witch Fire Company, Port Deposit, will hold a Prize Bingo and dinner to benefit Krafty Survivors-Relay for Life, at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 5 p.m. and dinner will be served 6 p.m. Bingo starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 per person and includes paper packet for 20 games and ham dinner. Extra packs cost \$5 each. Cost is \$10 for children ages 6 and under for a single card pack, no extra packs. Early birds 6:45 p.m. (tickets purchased separately). Tickets are available at the door. Door prizes, refreshments, raffles and more will be available. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No smoking is permitted. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-642-9297, 410-658-528 or 410-378-3338.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 19
SATURDAY
NINTH ANNUAL
SUSQUEHANNA
RIVERSWEEP**

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway will sponsor

its 9th Riversweep, Annual Earth Day Shoreline Clean-up, rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during low tide. Volunteers will meet in one of three locations: the Community Park in Perryville, Marina Park in Port Deposit and Tydings Park Gazebo in Havre de Grace. Participants are urged to wear old clothes and bring gloves. Riversweep draws individuals, Families and youth groups together for a day of hard work and fun. Free lunch and T-shirts will be provided to participants who register in advance. An Earth Day celebration will follow at Havre de Grace Maritime Museum located on 100 Lafayette Street. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.hitourtrails.com/Riversweep.html> or call 410-457-2482.

**EARTH DAY 2008
FESTIVAL**

An Earth Day celebration will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Aberdeen Festival Park located on West Belair Avenue, across from the Aberdeen Library. The free event is for all ages and will include live music, a rock climbing wall, a “moon bounce,” tie-dye,

recycled games, prizes and face painting. For more information, to register or for directions, call 410-297-4215.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the USNTC Bainbridge Historical Association will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 6 p.m., Bingo begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Food, door prizes and raffles will be available. For more information, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Carolyn Spencer, 410-378-3219.

**SUNDAY
APRIL 20
BIRDING BY BOAT –
PONTOON BOAT RIDE**

Join birder Phil Powers on a search for the beautiful marsh birds of Otter Point Creek. This program will be held 8:30 to 10 a.m. for ages 10 through adult. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for ages 13 and under. Registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-

879-2000, ext. 1688.

BIRCH BARK CANOE

Make a model of a birch bark canoe while discussing a Native American craft. This program will be held 2 to 3 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. Cost is \$3 per person. Registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**SPARROW HOUSE
WALK FOR LIFE**

The Sparrow House Maternity Home will hold its seventh annual Walk for Life, 2 p.m. The Walk will take place at two locations, Christ the King Church in Towson located on 1102 Hart Road, Towson, Md. and Heavenly Waters Park located on The MA & PA Trail, 703 North Tollgate Road, Bel Air. Sparrow House, started in 1985, provides temporary residential care to unmarried, pregnant girls, or young women who are in a crisis pregnancy situation. The ministry provides a family setting where young women are nurtured and cared for during the time they make important life decisions.

Donations to Sparrow House may be made online at www.Sparrow-House.com or mailed to the following address: Sparrow House, P.O. Box 751, Bel Air, MD, 21014. For more information on Sparrow House services, making donations, volunteering, or to participate in the Walk for Life, call 410-399-2440, e-mail Sparrow-House85@yahoo.com, or visit www.Sparrow-House.com.

**FAMILY PASSOVER
SEDER**

Temple Adas Shalom Harford Jewish Center located on 8 North Earleton Road Ext., Havre de Grace, will hold a Family Passover Seder, 6 to 9 p.m. Join Temple Adas Shalom for Passover “The Jewish liberation from slavery.” The Temple also has weekly Sabbath services. For more information, call Jonas Vogelhut, 410-436-4102, or e-mail jonas-vogelhut@us.army.mil. *(Editors Note: More Community Notes can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Comm. Notes.)*

Post Shorts

and the environmental staff will sponsor “A Tree Breathes Life,” an APG Arbor and Earth Day celebration, 1 to 2 p.m., April 29, at the BRAC Re-Forestation Planting Area located on Gadsden Road, located across from Garden Drive on Aberdeen Boulevard in the Aberdeen Area. Everyone is invited to attend. Tree City USA will recognize Aberdeen Proving Ground for their ongoing commitment to the environment. Events include an awards presentation for the Youth Poster Contest, ceremonial tree plantings and APG’s Environmental Business Partner displays. For more information or to RSVP by April 22, call Judy Ratledge, 410-436-4817, e-mail judy.ratledge@us.army.mil.

USO-JETS third annual Military Spouse Career Expo

The USO of Metropolitan Washington and Joint Employment Transition Services will present the third annual Military Spouse Career Expo, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 26, at the Fort Belvoir Officers’ Club located on 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir, Va. Designed to empower military spouses through information, motivation and skill development leading to sound career choices, the program will include presentations on federal jobs, self-employment and alternative careers. Breakout sessions will include Maximizing Your Education Benefits; 10 Steps for Federal Employment; Career Choices for Military Spouse; Your Winning Image; Evaluating Benefit Plans; The Ins and Outs of Volunteering; Writing An Effective Resume; Stress Management and Franchising 101. The day will also include a “mini job fair” with national and local employers, information on home-based businesses and representatives from the Small Business Administration. Lunch is provided. Attendance is free to military spouses. For more information or to register by April 18, visit <http://www.usometrodc.org/Text/Spouses%20Expo.pdf>.

Installation Volunteer Recognition nominations, ceremony

Each year APG recognizes volunteers and their contributions to the post and surrounding areas. Nominations will close April 22. The APG community will

formally thank volunteers at a recognition ceremony and reception 7 p.m., May 15, at Top of the Bay. For more information, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669.

RAB meeting April 24

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., April 24, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Other Edgewood Areas Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Training session on DFAS

The director of the Edgewood Contracting Division invites everyone to attend a training session entitled, “The DFAS Road Show,” 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 8, at the Edgewood Conference Center, building E-4810, main auditorium. Lunch will not be provided. Topics covered include:

- How DFAS pays contracts (both contract pay and vendor pay)
- Accounting
- Electronic commerce initiatives (including WAWF)
- Special payment instructions
- Interest payments
- Conversion of contract financing
- Contract reconciliation
- DFAS customer service
- DFAS/DCMA liaison

For more information, to register or to RSVP by COB

May 6, call Jennifer Zeman, 410-436-4492, or e-mail jennifer.zeman@us.army.mil.

FEW accepting scholarship applications

The Federally Employed Women Foundation’s Scholarship Program was established to assist its members and their immediate Families who are looking to further their academic goals. The scholarship is for one full four-year scholarship in the science and technology career fields with Grantham University (www.grantham.edu/few.htm), a 100 percent online university based in Kansas City, Mo. The scholarship includes all books and software for the program. For applications and additional information, visit www.fewfoundation.org. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information, contact Patricia Wolfe, 202-898-0994 or e-mail wolfepatriciam@aol.com, Marie Argana at jellomga@comcast.net, or Melinda Hendrix at ericblmflld@aol.com.

Gospel revival services

Gospel Worship Service invites everyone of all denominations to attend their revival services, 7 p.m., April 30 through May 2, at the main Post Chapel. For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Robert R. Thomas, 410-278-3976.

Asian Pacific Amer- ican Heritage event

An Asian Pacific celebra-

tion will be held 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 21, at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810; James Rivera, EEO, 410-278-1100; or Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023.

Office Eagle holds Customer Appreciation Day

Aberdeen Area Office Eagle will hold a Customer Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 20. Join the Office Eagle for a 50’s style celebration that includes refreshments, giveaways and lots of fun. For more information, call Office Eagle, 410-297-4950, e-mail bcouncil@bism.org.

Free Military Separation Guide

The Military Separation Guide for Active Duty Personnel can now be downloaded FREE online at <http://www.unitedspinal.org/publications/vetsfirst/military-separation-guide/>. The separation guide was created by United Spinal Association, a non-profit organization that has been fighting for veterans’ rights for over 60 years. United Spinal’s “Military Separation Guide” emphasizes the importance of the retiree and veteran having all of their military records in their posses-

sion, and of insuring that such records are correct, before they leave active duty status. The “Military Separation Guide” also provides detailed information concerning relocation assistance and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation, education,

training benefits and much more. For more information, call Terence J. Moakley, 718-803-3782, ext. 277.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

2008 Army Concert Tour presents
ZZ Top
Sunday, June 22
visit www.apgmwr.com

Hairspray on Broadway

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a bus trip to see Hairspray on Broadway, 2 p.m., April 19. Tickets cost \$140 per person and include bus transportation and Broadway play. This event is open to all DoD ID card holders. “Hairspray” is based upon the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters. In this musical, it’s 1962 - the ‘50s are out and change is in the air. Baltimore’s Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has only one passion - to dance. The songs take the audience to the sound-stage of a 60’s-style dance show, to the streets of Baltimore, to a downtown rhythm and blues record shop.

Bus departs for New York at 6 a.m. There will be time for shopping and lunch prior to the show. The bus will depart Broadway at 5 p.m.

For more information, for reservations, or to purchase tickets, call Patti Harkins, 410-278-4603.

School age/middle school services summer program taking applications

The Aberdeen and Edgewood area’s summer programs will run for nine weeks, June 16 through Aug. 15, Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The program is open to all qualifying children who have completed first through eighth grades. Parents can sign up for the weeks that fit their schedule.

Tuition fees are based on total Family income.

Waiting list applications may

Events happening this Saturday

‘Spring into Action Day’ this Saturday

FMWR will host “Spring into Action Day” 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 19, behind the Aberdeen Area Youth Center.

Events include competing in a 50-yard dash, 800-meter run, water balloon toss, football throw, home run derby, fitness course, team building activities and a health station, and are for ages 3 and older (including high school level and parents).

For more information, call 410-306-2297.

Talent Showcase

The Talent Showcase (featuring youths and adults) will be held 7 p.m., April 19, at the Post Theater.

For more information, call Earlene Allen, 410-273-7803 or 410-652-2737 or e-mail MWR-Events@apg.army.mil.

Spring Golf Scramble at Exton

The Spring Golf Scramble at Exton Golf Course will be held 8:30 a.m., April 19, and includes greens fee, cart, continental breakfast, lunch and prizes.

Prices are \$20 for Annual Patrons, \$30 for Value Card holders/Authorized Patrons and \$40 for guests.

Register in the Pro Shop at Exton or Ruggles.

For more information, call 410-436-2213 or e-mail ruben.ferguson@us.army.mil.

be picked up daily, at the Edgewood Area Youth Services, building E-1902, the Outreach Services, building 2752 or faxed to 410-278-4658.

Applications will not be distributed or accepted at the Aberdeen Area Youth Service building.

Registration will be held Saturday, April 19, at the Edgewood Area Youth Services and Saturday, April 26, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Services for all sponsors who have been offered openings by the Central Registration office. Registration packets, an up-to-date physical and Family income information must be completed prior to the registration appointment.

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required per child at the time of registration for each week a parent selects.

For questions or further information, call the Outreach Services Office, 410-278-7571/7479.

Do-it-yourself New York City tours

FMWR has scheduled several day trips to New York City – eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, seeing a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15.

Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and will return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit FMWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Hershey Park Military Appreciation

Hershey Park will hold a special Military Appreciation event for military on April 20. This is a private event and the park will be open only to the military.

Take advantage of free parking and short lines before the park opens in May.

Tickets cost \$21 for all ages. Purchase tickets now as supplies are limited. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the MWR Leisure Travel Office, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Karate classes

The Aberdeen Area Youth Center, located in building 2522, will offer karate classes for ages 12 through 18, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Wednesdays, April 30 through May 21. Cost is \$40 per student. Karate promotes discipline, muscle toning and conditioning.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

Tae Kwon Do classes

Aberdeen Area Youth Center offers Tae Kwon Do classes for ages 5 to 11, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 30 through May 21. Cost is \$40 per student. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, muscle toning and conditioning.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

MWR Amusement, Travel Expo May 8

MWR Leisure Travel Services will hold an Amusement and Travel Expo, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 8 at Top of the Bay. Vendors from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware will be available.

Come see what’s hot this year for the next vacation and sign up to win great door prizes.

For more information, call

410-278-4011/4907.

Baltimore Orioles Games

Purchase tickets for Orioles baseball at Camden Yards:

- Boston Red Sox, 7:05 p.m., May 13
- Pittsburgh Pirates, 1:35 p.m., June 15
- Kansas City Royals, 7:05 p.m., July 3
- Detroit Tigers, 7:05 p.m., July 18
- Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m., Aug. 25
- Oakland Athletics, Sept. 7, TBD
- Cleveland Indians, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 9
- Toronto Blue Jays, Sept. 28, 1:35 p.m.

For more information on other Baltimore Orioles games or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4907/4011.

APG holds Armed Forces Day 10K run

Aberdeen Proving Ground and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the second annual Armed Forces Day 10K Run, 8 a.m., May 17.

The race is open to the general public, military or civilian. Entry forms can be found on Charm City Run Web site, <http://www.charmcity-run.com>.

Entry fees are \$20 through May 4, \$25 through May 16 and \$30 race day. There is a \$5 discount for active duty military and privates (E-1) through private first class (E-3) are free. Military grades E-1 through E-3 may register with their unit. Runners will receive a 10K Run T-shirt, and water will be provided on the course and at the finish line.

For more information, contact Ralph Cuomo, MWR sports director, 410-278-3812 or e-mail ralph.cuomo@apg.army.mil.

Armed Forces Day Fun Fest May 17

Chesapeake Challenge and

Shine Sports Field is the location for the Armed Forces Day Fun Fest, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 17.

Chesapeake Challenge will offer one-half price on go-carts, batting cages and mini golf this day only.

There will be games, music, military displays, a new car display, Outdoor Recreation display, special guests and more.

For more information, call Child and Youth Services, 410-278-4589.

Sign up now for the Spring Aerobics program

Spring forward with Spring Aerobics at the Aberdeen Area Fitness Center, building 320, through May 30. Cost is \$44 per person.

Cost includes a different aerobic workout each day 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 5 to 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Lunchtime workouts include Monday, strength training with Barbara; Tuesday, Yoga with Steve; Wednesday, step and sculpt with April; and Thursday, kickboxing with Ray. Evening aerobics on Monday and Wednesday includes step with Joe.

At least 12 participants are needed to hold each class.

For more information or to sign up, call 410-278-9725.

Hip Hop classes

The Aberdeen Area Youth Center, located in building 2522, will hold Hip Hop Dance classes for ages 8 through 18. Classes for ages 8 to 13 will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; classes for ages 14 to 18 will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All classes will be held on Mondays.

This is a fun and energetic dance class, great for all ages and levels.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@apg.army.mil.

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given 3:30 to 7 p.m., March 7 through April 18. Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

Brazilian Jujitsu

A Brazilian jujitsu program

will be held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Three sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 15 through May 15; and May 20 through June 19.

Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m.; advanced classes will be held 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Through the practice of jujitsu and kickboxing, students will learn the best form of self-defense, how to defend themselves against bigger, stronger, and faster opponents and develop leadership and teamwork skills. All students will advance their skills no matter their gender, size, or

natural ability.

Cost is \$85 per student, or \$240 per student for all three classes.

Tutors available for all grades

Private tutors are available for students in grades 1 through 12. Tutoring for grades 1 through 5 includes all subjects for non-before/after-school participants. Grades 6 through 8 includes all subjects. Grades 9 through 12 includes math and science only.

Tutors are available Monday through Friday, April 22 through May 13 and cost \$140 per student for four one-hour sessions. Times and days vary with each participant. Open to

all DoD ID card holders.

Private guitar lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 and over will be held 3:30 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays, April 22 through May 13.

An award winning singer/songwriter will teach students to play the guitar like they have always wanted. No experience necessary.

Cost of the lessons is \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Students must provide their own guitar and also are required to purchase required for the course as recommended by the instructor. Books are a one-time purchase. Parents can choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child.

Private voice lessons

Ages 7 and over can register for private voice lessons,

3:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, April 22 through May 13. An award-winning singer and songwriter will instruct students. No experience is necessary.

Singing lessons cost \$132 per student and includes one 30 minute session per week for four weeks. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child.

Songwriting lessons

Ages 7 through 18 can take Songwriting Lessons, 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, April 22 through May 13. Learn from an award winning singer/songwriter to write songs. No experience is necessary. Musical knowledge is preferred, but not required.

The class costs \$65 per student. Each session is one hour per week for four weeks. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Beginner Spanish 101

Hola! Habla Espanol? Beginner Spanish 101 is a great opportunity for children ages 5 and older, to learn Spanish through games and student-centered activities. The class is for students with little to no Spanish language experience.

Two classes will be held: 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. for ages 5 through 7; and 6:20 to 7:30 p.m., for ages 8 through 11. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, April 22 through June 3, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

The class will include hands-on activities such as games, songs, crafts, stories, and some familiar movies, all in Spanish.

Class price is \$55 per student with a minimum of six students per hour and a maximum of 16 students only. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

SCHOOL LIAISON

New graduation requirements

The 2005 Harford County Public Schools’ Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Plan will require students that graduate in June 2009 and later to earn 26 graduation credits. The new flexible eight-period day, also called the block schedule, allows students 32 credit opportunities.

Prior to this students graduated with only 21 credits. The five additional credits include one more mathematics credit and four credits in the Career Pathways system.

Beginning in ninth grade, all students complete the “Living in a Contemporary World” course, which will be followed by career cluster courses to help them bet-

ter understand their interests and aptitudes. The ultimate goal of the Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Plan is to promote student success, as measured by increased scores on high school assessments, increase attendance rate, increase graduation rates, decrease drop-out rate and (increase) issues related to a safe and secure learning environment.

For more information, see the Student Education Planning Guide and courses at http://www.hcps.org/students/docs/2008-09_coursebook_front_end.pdf or http://www.hcps.org/students/docs/2008-09_coursebook_courses.pdf.

will be checked for completeness and stamped with the date/time they were received. Parents who register their child for pre-kindergarten prior to June 11 will be notified of their non-acceptance into the program.

Parents are requested to bring their child’s birth certificate or verification of birth, social security card and all immunization records.

The school also requires proof of residency, which can be in the form of a rental lease or utility bill (dated within the last two months prior to registration), which contains the parents’ name and address. Parents must also bring a copy of their 2006 Federal Income Tax Return.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.

Free movies at the Post Theater

MWR hosts free movies at the Post Theater, 7 p.m., Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays.

Movies are open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel and their Family members, retirees, DoD civilians and APG contractors. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult regardless of the movie rating.

For more information or movie schedule, call the Movie Hotline, 410-278-8000 or check the APG MWR Web site, <http://www.apgmwr.com>.

Snack Bar will be open for all performances.



APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of April 14

Special #1: Turkey and ham wrap with lettuce, tomato, ranch dressing, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Nine wing dings or wing zings, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$5.95.

Week of April 21

Special #1: Double bowlerburger with bacon, cheese, and choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.85.

Special #2: Chicken filet club sub with bacon and cheese, and choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.65.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.





Danielle Taylor, a Church Creek Elementary School third grade teacher, right, depicts Harriet Tubman, answering questions about her life, during a reenactment visit to the Aberdeen Area Youth Center March 25. From left, Tristin Hunter, 5th grade, Anthony Smith, 3rd grade, Tyler Mckinnon, 4th grade, Brandon Taylor, 3rd grade, TeVaris Ivory, 5th grade, and Chanice Yelder, 4th grade.

‘Harriet Tubman’ visits Youth Center

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

A Church Creek Elementary third grade elementary school teacher who depicts Harriet Tubman through historical reenactments visited the Youth Center on Aberdeen Proving Ground March 25.

Danielle Taylor has been doing reenactments of Tubman for 11 years doing two to three reenactments per year.

Every year she reenacts Tubman for The American Flag Foundation at Fort McHenry on National Flag Day, June 14. She also does reenactments at local schools and community centers.

She volunteered to come to the APG Youth Center during spring break.

“I support the Soldiers, and I see it as a privilege to come to the Youth Center because many of the children at the center have parents that are in the military,” Taylor said. “I think that the children can relate to Harriet Tubman’s desire to protect freedom, because their parents are protecting our freedom.”

Tubman, born Araminta Ross, who was originally from Maryland, was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian and Union spy during the U.S. Civil War. After escaping from captivity, she made 13 missions to rescue more than 70 slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

Taylor, dressed in costume, told the children about slave life from the perspective of Tubman. She told of the injustices that she and her Family and friends faced.

In her childhood Tubman suffered a traumatic head wound when an irate slave owner threw a heavy metal weight, intending to hit another slave. She suffered disabling seizures, headaches and spells of hypersomnia throughout her life as a result of this injury.

“When you are a slave, you belong to someone else, they can own you just like they own a pair of tennis shoes,” she told the children. “Your life is not your own.”

She did a demonstration with the children showing them how Tubman told the other slaves when she was planning an escape. She sang a negro spiritual, “Let My People Go,” which was used by Tubman and other slaves as a way to communicate Underground Railroad escape plans.



“When Israel was in Egypt’s Land, let my people go! Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go,” she sang.

She told the children how Tubman put her life at risk while she was helping slaves escape to freedom. Neither Tubman nor the fugitives she guided were ever captured, despite high monetary rewards.

After the Civil War, Tubman helped ex-slaves obtain education until her death, at 98.

“You are all lucky that you get to enjoy freedom that I never enjoyed,” she said while remaining in persona. “Blacks and whites can go to school together and be friends without fear.”

Taylor did two presentations, one for 1st through 3rd graders, and one for 4th through 6th graders. The children seemed to enjoy the program, asking her many questions about Tubman’s life.

“I enjoyed it. I learned what her real name was,” said Kary Francisco, a 5th grader. “She was a good actress.”

“She was very knowledgeable,” said Steven Gaddis, a 5th grader. “It was interesting.”

Taylor said that she has a great respect for Tubman, and especially enjoys doing the reenactments for children.

“I like her [Tubman] because she is a strong woman. She knew what she was doing. She knew that the Lord wanted her to back and free other people,” Taylor said. “I love her perseverance and her freedom. She is a good role model for children. She shows them that they can contribute to the freedom of others.”

Vision

From front page

testing is conducted. This allows for on-the-spot coordination between the sites and saves the Army time and money.

VISION was conceived in large measure to modernize information management technologies used for all levels of data and information. The VISION system was funded as a U.S. Army Developmental Test Command Research Development Initiative in 1998. The thought behind VISON

was to begin with the end in mind.

Sharing his thoughts on the collaborative efforts of the group, Sirmans stated, “PEO STRI and ATC work extremely well together and our collaboration on projects like VISION will ensure the development of much needed testing capabilities that will be applicable ATEC-wide.”

Rooney went on to say, “ATC is proud to have been a part of something as forward thinking and unique as VISION, and it is with great pleasure that we can also be a part of transitioning this system over to ATEC for it to continue to evolve as an innovative testing component.”

Volunteer

From front page

A justification for the nomination should include estimated number of volunteer hours, types of services, effect on the APG community and all volunteer activities in which nominee participated, being as specific as possible.

A proposed citation not to exceed nine typewritten lines should be submitted with the nomination.

Each organization is also asked to provide the number of volunteers and volunteer hours for the same time period.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS, 410-278-9669.

Winners will be announced and all nominees will be recognized at the Volunteer Ceremony 7 p.m., May 15, at Top of the Bay.